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It is surprising to be told that "Russia's occupation of Port Arthur was made necessary by the fact that Germany had gained possession of Kiaochau, and thus disturbed the balance of power," when all the world knows that Russia, backed by Germany and France, forced from Japan the Liaotung peninsula, and thus fulfilled her century-old ambition to obtain an ice-free port on the Pacific. The occupation of Port Arthur was soon followed by the assumption of jurisdiction over Manchuria.

The history of this period is a record of protests from the other Powers and broken promises on the part of Russia. The responsibility for the war, which was inevitable, Mr. de Wollant places wholly upon Japan. He says "the moment had arrived for conquering Korea and spreading her domination in China." He adds "Russia did not want war and was not ready for war," but "she would not be an easy prey like China, and Japan played a hazardous game in beginning such a war." "One need not be a prophet to foretell that it will be disastrous to Japan."

The Yellow Peril is dwelt upon with considerable fervour. A Japanese writer is quoted as saying that "the mission of Japan is to civilize Europe and reconstruct on Japanese lines its moral and religious life." The United States will no doubt be included in this missionary work, but Mr. de Wollant's greatest fear for this country is in the direction of its commercial interests. He says "the time will come when the United States will *painfully* discover what the advent of Japan means."

The Russian original is not always perfectly rendered in the generally excellent translation by the author's wife. M. C. G.

The Philippine Islands. By Fred W. Atkinson. iv and 426 pp. Maps and Illustrations. Index. Ginn & Company, Boston. 1905. (Price, \$3.)

This is, on the whole, the most convenient book to which we may refer for precise information about the Philippines. All who have occasion to look for special facts about nearly any phase of the islands or their peoples have doubtless been impressed with the circumstance that, although a great deal of material is now available, most of it has not as yet been so well arranged and presented in recent books, official or otherwise, as to give the reader a clear idea of the facts; or, at least, the student must hunt through many pages or in different books before he feels that he has satisfactory knowledge of the matter he is investigating.

The book brings within the compass of an ordinary octavo volume a systematic account of our new possessions; and we think it will be considered as the most handy and one of the most accurate sources of reference. The author was formerly our General Superintendent of Education in the Islands, where he travelled extensively and had unusual opportunities for observation. He has faithfully, and with much success, carried out his endeavour "to show the real conditions, geographical, economic, social, and political; to picture the people and their characteristics, the different phases of the problem of tropical colonies, the possibilities, and the prospects."

There is an index, and the illustrations are numerous and good.

Trois colonisateurs. Par le capitaine Froelicher, ancien officier de l'armée d'Afrique. Ouvrage couronné par la Société de Propagande coloniale. Avec 3 photographies et 4 cartes dans le texte. Paris, Henry Charles-Lavauzelle.

An interesting account of the ups and downs of French colonisation in Algiers,